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1. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ADENAUER'S ILLNESS

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If the chancellor dies at this time, the president would ask the Christian Democratic Party to form a new government. In the struggle for the succession, Finance Minister Schaeffer and Foreign Minister von Brentano would be leading candidates.

Should Adenauer merely be prevented from resuming full conduct of his office for several weeks more, no grave impairment of the government's functioning would be likely. Since his is largely a personal government, a longer absence would probably have serious consequences regarding such critical issues as the Saar, rearmament legislation, and relations with the Soviet Orbit.

At present, Adenauer's personal aide, Hans Globke, is probably assuming a major role in the daily decisions of the chancellery. Vice Chancellor Bluecher's political influence is waning and presumably does not permit him to speak with any real authority.

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3. RHEE ASKS DEFENSE CHIEFS FOR PLANS TO RECOVER TERRITORY SOUTH OF 38TH PARALLEL

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[REDACTED]

General Yi Hyong-kun, chairman of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, has told the American army attaché that President Rhee recently held a meeting of his top defense officials to demand again that the Communist-held areas south of the 38th parallel be retaken by force. When advised that such action was impracticable, Rhee stated "nothing is impossible" and requested that plans be submitted to him within a few days.

The attaché comments that another refusal by South Korean military leaders to support the use of force may lead Rhee "to fabricate incidents to provoke hostilities or replace the military leaders involved."

Comment

Rhee has the capability to provoke incidents with small unconventional forces. His immediate interest, however, is probably less in recovering the "lost territory" than in assuring the continued presence of American troops, maintaining the atmosphere of crisis which facilitates his exercise of authority, and possibly distracting attention from the dispute over taxation of foreigners.

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